

Name _____ Date _____

Independent Reading Guide: Poetry

Directions: Use the following questions to clarify your understanding of and response to a poem. Reflect on each question before answering. If you are keeping a *Reader's Response Journal* or wish to start one, use one of the suggested activities to make an entry.

Poem Title _____ Poet _____

Circle the literary techniques the poet uses in this poem.

simile metaphor personification rhyme
repetition onomatopoeia alliteration other _____

In this poem, the poet is attempting to (circle one or more)

tell a story create an image
express a feeling or emotion other _____.

Elements of the Poem

1. Give an example of a literary technique used by the poet. _____

2. Is the poem written in stanzas? If so, how many? _____
3. How would I describe the rhythm of the poem? _____

4. Does the rhythm seem to match the message or meaning of the poem?
Explain. _____

5. How would I describe the mood of the poem? How does the poet establish this mood? _____

6. What do I think the poet wants me to know, feel, value, or believe? _____

7. Does a particular word or phrase carry important meaning for the poem? If so, which word or phrase and what meaning does it convey?

Response to the Poem

Rate this poem by circling the appropriate word.

- | | | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|------|--------|
| 8. The words appeal to my sense of sight, hearing, touch, taste, or smell. | weak | fair | strong |
| 9. The meaning of this poem is clear and precise. | weak | fair | strong |
| 10. I can feel the rhythm of the poem as I read it. | weak | fair | strong |
| 11. I can easily connect the feelings or events in this poem with my own experiences. | weak | fair | strong |
| 12. Overall, I rate this poem as | weak | fair | strong |

Reasons for my rating: _____

13. What qualities did I like or dislike about this poem? Why? _____

14. What predictions and questions occurred to me as I read this poem? Were my predictions accurate? Were my questions answered?

Reader's Response Journal

- When you reread the poem, did you discover something that was not obvious from your first reading? Explain your discovery and the reason it may have occurred.
- Copy a phrase, line, or passage from the poem and then write a brief comment describing your feelings or thoughts about the passage.